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Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
----------031858Z 058355 /46
O 031945Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3599

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 16471

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1. VIETNAMESE SIDE PROVIDED LIST OF TWENTY ADDITIONAL CASES DURING JUNE 2 MEETING, WHICH PHAN HIEN SAID RESULTED FROM INTENSIFIED MIA EFFORTS SINCE THE WOODCOCK COMMISSION VISIT AND THE MAY 3-4 PARIS MEETINGS. HE SAID THE RESPECTIVE MIA OFFICES IN THE US AND SRV HEADED BY FRANK SIEVERTS AND VU HOANG WOULD WORK TOGETHER TO CONFIRM DETAILS ON THIS INFORMATION AND TO ARRANGE THE RETURN OF REMAINS.

2. AS DISCUSSED IN EARLIER EXCHANGES, VIETNAMESE AGREED NOT TO RELEASE NAMES PUBLICLY UNTIL IDENTIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE US CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY IN HONOLULU FOLLOWING THE RETURN OF REMAINS. FACT OF LIST WAS ANNOUNCED BY PHAN HIEN AT PRESS CONFERENCE OUTSIDE US EMBASSY FOLLOWING JUNE 3 MEETING, WITH HOLBROOKE THEN EXPRESSING USG APPRECIATION FOR THIS POSITIVE SRV ACTION.

3. IN ADDITION TO VIETNAMESE UNDERTAKING TO PROTECT IDENTITIES, WE CONSIDER IT ESPECIALLY NOTEWORTHY THAT LIST FOR FIRST TIME INCLUDES "UNIDENTIFIED" CASES, WHICH WOODCOCK COMMISSION SPECIFICALLY ASKED BE DONE.

4. PHAN HIEN TOOK PERSONAL CREDIT FOR INTENSIFIED EFFORTS WHICH LED TO NEW LIST, SAYING HE HAD
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"MOBILIZED" VU HOANG AND HIS COLLEAGUES TO STEP UP THEIR SEARCH ACTIVITIES. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT US REJECTION OF VIETNAM AID PROPOSALS WOULD "POUR COLD WATER" ON THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE SEARCH TEAMS, ALTHOUGH HE MADE CLEAR THAT EFFORTS AND RETURN OF REMAINS WOULD CONTINUE.

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5. SIEVERTS AND VU HOANG HAD SEPARATE MEETINGS BOTH DAYS TO CONFIRM DETAILS OF LIST AND DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR RETURN OF REMAINS. IN RESPONSE TO HOANG'S REQUEST, SIEVERTS OBTAINED VERIFICATION FROM DEFENSE DEPT. OF NAMES AND DATA ON THE NEW LIST, WHICH HE GAVE TO HOANG ON SECOND DAY. HOANG NOTED THAT SEVERAL NAMES ARE AMONG THOSE ASKED ABOUT IN RECENT EXCHANGES, WHICH HE SUGGESTED CONTINUE. SIEVERTS PROVIDED ADDITIONAL TWELVE CASES WITH MAPS AND DETAILS FOR THIS PURPOSE AND PROMISED TO SEND MORE SOON.

6. HOLBROOKE REPEATED INVITATION FOR VU HOANG AND OTHER MIA SPECIALISTS TO VISIT JCRC/CIL IN HONOLULU. ALTHOUGH PHAN HIEN MADE NO DIRECT RESPONSE, VU HOANG TOLD SIEVERTS THIS MIGHT BE ARRANGED IN CONJUNCTION WITH US FLIGHT TO HANOI TO COLLECT REMAINS. HE SAID HE WOULD INFORM US WHEN THE REMAINS WERE READY TO PICK UP.

7. THE FIVE CASES LISTED AS "UNIDENTIFIED" INCLUDE PRESUMED DATES OF DEATH AND PLACES WHERE REMAINS WERE RECOVERED. BASED ON THE INFORMATION WE PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED, VIETNAMESE BELIEVE CASE 2 IS PROBABLY WINBROW, NUTTER JAMES III, AND CASE 7 IS PROBABLY HARTNEY, JAMES CUTHBERT. VU HOANG SAID ONLY ABOUT FIVE OR SIX OF THESE REMAINS HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN RECOVERED, AND THAT BEFORE STARTING EXHUMATION ON THE OTHER CASES, HE WANTS TO ASSURE THE REGIONAL AUTHORITIES INVOLVED THAT THE US HAS VERIFIED THE
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DATES AND NAMES. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THE REMAINS

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WOULD BE READY TO RETURN IN TWO OR THREE MONTHS, I.E. IN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER. HE ADDED THERE WERE OTHER CASES NOW BEING LOOKED FOR ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION WE HAVE PROVIDED, BUT THESE ARE NOT INCLUDED SINCE NOTHING HAS YET BEEN CONFIRMED.

8. VU HOANG SAID THAT THE GOUGELMANN AND FRYER REMAINS SHOULD BE READY TO RETURN WITH THE 20.

9. FOLLOWING IS LIST AS RECEIVED FROM VIETNAMESE. DATE IS PRESUMED DATE OF DEATH, AND PLACE IS WHERE REMAINS WERE DISCOVERED.
1. MORRIS ROBERT J., CAPT. (AF) FV 490524870, DEC. 26, 72, HANOI.
2. UNIDENTIFIED, DEC. 26, 72, HANOI.
3. WYNNE PATRIC E., 1ST LT.(AF), 70364, AUG. 8, 66, QUANG NINH.
4. SPENCER WARREN R., CAPT.(AF), 307445891 FR, DEC. 20, 72, HA TAY.
5. PAUL CRAIG ALLAN, LT. (AF), 291427979 FR, DEC. 20, 72, HA TAY.
6. FANTLE SAMUEL III, CAPT. (AF), FV 3121091, JAN. 5, 68, BAC THAI.
7. UNIDENTIFIED, JAN. 5, 68, BAC THAI.
8. SINGER DONALD M., MAJ. (AF), AO 2220822, AUG. 17, CONFIDENTIAL

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66, NGHIA LO.
9. BRAND JOSEPH W., MAJ. (AF), AO 842484, AUG. 17, 66, NGHIA LO.
10. THUM RICHARD C., LTJG(NA), 706712, NOV. 25, 68, NGHE AN.
11. MEARNS ARTHUR S., MAJ. (AF), 45340 A, NOV. 11, 66, HA BAC.
12. TEAGUE JAMES ERLAN, LTJG(NA), 708549, NOV. 19, 67, HAI PHONG.
13. ESTES WALTER O. II, LTJG(NA), 692589, NOV. 19, 67, HAI PHONG.
14. UNIDENTIFIED, MAR., 66, NGHE AN.
15. UNIDENTIFIED, MAR., 66, NGHE AN.
16. HOCKRIDGE JAMES E., CAPT. (AF), OCT. 17, 72, VINH PHU.

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17. GRAHAM ALLEN M., 1ST LT (AF), OCT. 17, 72, VINH PHU.
18. HAUER LESLIE JOHN, MAJ. (AF), FV 941711, NOV. 18, 67, VINH PHU.
19. UNIDENTIFIED, MAY 10, 72, YEN BAI.
20. NELSON WILLIAM H., COL. (AF), 33458A, JUL. 20, 66, HOA BINH.
GAMMON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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